

Minutes

General Faculty Meeting

November 30th 2012

1. The meeting was called to order by Mr. David Hunter, Faculty Senate President at 10:00 am.
2. The minutes from the faculty meeting on April 27th 2012 were approved following a motion by Dr. Kuipers and seconded by Dr. Gurnack.
3. President Kendall Blanchard welcomed the faculty and congratulated them for all the hard work during the semester. The President shared demographic data from a recent meeting that was delivered by Mr. Steve Murdock, former Census Bureau Director. Dr. Blanchard referenced the strong growth of the Latino population nationally and added that this growth requires institutions and society to understand the “new normal”. Potential university students will have fewer financial resources and will often be the first generation enrolling in universities and colleges. Dr. Blanchard stated that our planning as an institution should be based on what we need to be as opposed to what we would like to be. This is part of the “new normal”. The president also announced that enrollment was down by 2.4% and this year’s freshman class is smaller than the class last year. He also added that he likes the beginnings and endings associated with the teaching profession and reminded everyone that no matter how bad things are in a given semester or academic year, we always have another chance to get things right. Dr. Blanchard said he wishes that faculty could receive pay raises and wants faculty members to stay at Georgia Southwestern State University. He also announced that Ms. Reda Rowell has been selected to serve as the Executive Director of the Georgia Southwestern State Foundation, Inc.. Her first day will be next week.
4. Dr. Adler addressed the faculty and stated that he taught a class this semester. He added that reading remains a challenge for some of our students. Dr. Adler also said that we are not taking advantage of some assessment opportunities. He added that we must do a better job in staying engaged with our students; as they approach graduation and beyond. Dr. Adler provided an update on the Complete College Georgia initiative. He announced that we would be having periodic sessions during the semester that will be designed to help develop and implement actions plans. Dr. Adler discussed the Massive Open Online Courses that are becoming more common across the country.

5. Dr. Bryan Davis, SACS and COC Liaison, updated faculty about accreditation efforts; our submission and the visit. He stated that software has been utilized that will facilitate the display of faculty credentials. Dr. Davis also shared the timeline of the process. He added that our draft of our compliance certificate has been reviewed by a drafting committee and by Ms. Brenda Davis. Dr. Davis wants the certificate to be as complete as possible by March 15th 2013. He also stated that we are in a better position in terms of being compliant with standards and requirements of SACS. Ms. Tiffany Gregory, Director of Residence Life, will chair an on-site planning committee.
6. Dr. Elizabeth Gurnack addressed the faculty concerning the Windows to the World topic that was selected by the Leadership Team of SACS. This topic will be a major component of our Quality Enhancement Plan; the second major submission for our SACS reaffirmation. Dr. Gurnack will co-chair the committee that will draft the QEP. She thanked faculty for their support. Dr. Gurnack touched upon the rationale of the topic selection and stated that our students will be better prepared to seize opportunities that are available outside of our university service area and their respective hometowns. Dr. Gurnack also stated that this is a collective effort and invited faculty to share ideas relating to the implementation of the theme. She added that a collaborative approach that involves faculty, staff and the community is necessary and will increase the likelihood for success. Fall, 2013 is the target for implementation. The plan would be written before the SACS visit and this is part of the protocol established by SACS. Dr. Stephanie Harvey will assist Dr. Gurnack. A logo will be developed along with a marketing plan that will heighten awareness of Windows of The World. Dr. Gurnack wants our students to look out the “windows to the world”.
7. Committee reports were given
 - a. Academic Affairs: Dr. Bryan Davis stated that this committee met four times and highlighted the work involving the academic integrity proposal. He thanked professors Paula Martin, Sam Peavey and the faculty senate for efforts related to the proposal.
 - b. Academic Grievances: Dr. Paul Shapiro noted that no grievances were filed this semester
 - c. Athletics: Dr. MacLennan noted that the committee met once and instituted a tutoring program for student-athletes.
 - d. Business and Finance: Ms. Laurel Robinson stated that they met once and the focus was on the budgetary hearing process.
 - e. Faculty Affairs: Dr. Burt Carter summarized activity relating to faculty development and institutional grants.

- f. Graduate Affairs: Dr. Sheryl Venable noted that the committee endorsed the granting of graduate teaching upon ten faculty members.
 - g. Institutional Effectiveness: The committee met and they established a cycle for the submission of sub- committee reports
 - h. Scholarships and Financial Aid: Dr. Megginson stated that the committee met once this semester.
 - i. Student Affairs: Dr Uhl stated that the committee met several times and they approved ten new student organizations.
 - j. University and Alumni Affairs: Dr. Paula Martin stated that the committee has been planning alumni activities and prepared for Homecoming and other programs that are designed to get alumni involved with the university.
8. New Business
- a. Academic Affairs : Proposal on Academic Integrity (Endorsed by Senate)

Discussion was opened and Dr. Brian Smith asked what would happen if the student suspected of violating the policy leaves before the professor can meet with him or her. Dr. Tate stated it would be critical to document efforts and file a report. Dr. Smith also asked about how the policy would relate to students taking coursework via distance education. Dr. Tate responded and talked about the importance of faculty to make expectations quite clear. She added that the policy is crafted to provide flexibility to faculty members. Ms. L. Robinson expressed her support for the policy. The full faculty voted unanimously to adopt the academic integrity policy
 - b. Academic Affairs: The Department of History and Political Science proposed adding teaching certification to the existing political science major. (Endorse by Senate) This proposal passed unanimously by the full faculty
9. Graduate Affairs: Three proposals that would reactivate M.Ed programs in the School of Education : a. M.Ed Early Childhood b. M.Ed Middle Grades: major in Language Arts c. M.Ed. Middle Grades with a major in Mathematics. (Endorsed by Senate) The full senate voted unanimously to reactivate all three programs.

- a. Graduate Affairs committee endorsed the renewal of graduate teaching status for seven faculty members. Dr. Kuipers motioned that all candidates be considered with one motion. Motioned seconded by Dr. N. Iordanova. The full faculty voted unanimously to accept all candidates with one vote. The full faculty unanimously voted to renew the graduate teaching status of all candidates.
 - b. The Graduate Affairs Committee endorsed graduate teaching status for three new candidates. Dr. Kuipers motioned that we consider all three candidates in one vote. Dr N. Iordanova seconded. Full faculty voted to consider all three candidates together. The full faculty also voted unanimously to accept all three candidates for graduate teaching status.
10. There were several announcements made by faculty members. Nursing professors Wills and Lapeza were recognized for outstanding service to the university and community. Dr. Shapiro was also recognized for his service to the university.
11. Meeting was adjourned. Minutes submitted by D. Hunter